

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 5-8, 19 and 20 are amended. No new matter is added. Reconsideration based on the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants gratefully appreciate the indication that claims 7, 8, 16, and 17 contain allowable subject matter.

I. Claim Objections

Claims 1, 19 and 20 are objected to because of informalities. Claims 1, 19 and 20 are amended in accordance with the Examiner's instructions. Withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

II. The Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-6, 9-15 and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Japanese Patent Application No. JP 2001-051656 to Yuichi in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0030614 A1 to Tajima et al. (Tajima), and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,621,481 to Kanbara. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Amended claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, "wherein the first and second shift start signals are signals having the same phase, and wherein the first reference shift clock has a pulse in a first-stage capture period for capturing the first shift start signal into the first shift register and has a phase which is a reverse of a phase of the second reference shift clock in a data capture period after the first-stage capture has elapsed." Support for this amendment can be found in the specification at, for example, page 16, line 19 - page 17, line 19 and Figure 12.

Neither Yuichi, Tajima nor Kanbara discloses or suggests that the first and second shift start signals are signals having the same phase, and the first reference shift clock has a pulse in a first-stage capture period for capturing the first shift start signal into the first shift

register and has a phase which is a reverse of a phase of the second reference shift clock in a data capture period after the first-stage capture period has elapsed.

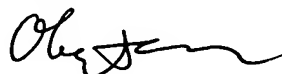
It is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is patentable over the applied art. Claims 2-20 are patentable over the applied references for at least the above reasons, as well as for the additional features they recite. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: November 30, 2006

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